



H.B. 578

124th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Latta, Aslanides, McGregor, Womer Benjamin, Hughes, D. Miller, Collier, DeWine, Seitz, Distel, Webster, Perry, Lendrum, Jolivette, Metzger, Calvert, Kearns, Britton, Hoops, Hartnett, Faber, Willamowski, Seaver, Carmichael, Reidelbach, Strahorn, Redfern, Barrett, Fessler, Carano, Roman, Olman, Allen

BILL SUMMARY

- Extends the number of academic terms that an individual enlisted in the Ohio National Guard may receive scholarships under the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program if the individual is called to active duty.
- Declares an emergency.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Background

Under the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program, individuals who have enlisted in the Ohio National Guard may qualify for scholarships toward their college education expenses. To be eligible, an individual must have not yet earned a bachelor's degree, must be a current member in good standing of the Ohio National Guard whose enrollment extends beyond the end of the academic term for which a scholarship is sought, must be enrolled for at least six quarter or semester-hour credits of coursework in a degree-granting higher education program, and must have not yet accumulated 96 "eligibility units."¹ An individual accumulates eligibility units by enrolling in coursework for which a scholarship is

¹ *R.C. 5919.34(A)(2). An eligible applicant may enroll in coursework at any state-assisted institution of higher education, any private nonprofit college or university that has a certificate of authorization from the Ohio Board of Regents, a private for-profit career school regulated by the State Board of Proprietary School Registration, and any private for-profit degree-granting institution that is exempt from regulation by the State Board of Proprietary School Registration.*

awarded under the program. In each academic term, an individual will accumulate the following eligibility units for semester-hour and quarter-hour coursework:

Number of semester or quarter-hour credits	Eligibility units accumulated for semester hours	Eligibility units accumulated for quarter hours
12 or more	12	8
At least 9 but less than 12	9	6
At least 6 but less than 9	6	4

The statute sets specific limits on the number of individuals who may receive scholarships in an academic term.² Accordingly, the Adjutant General has adopted regulations governing the selection of scholarship recipients from the pool of eligible applicants. If a qualified individual is not awarded a scholarship in an academic term, that individual may re-apply for a scholarship in future academic terms. Scholarships are to be awarded without regard to financial need.³ All scholarships under the program are paid directly to the institution of higher education in which the recipient is enrolled.

The following amounts are to be paid to an institution on behalf of an individual who is selected to receive a scholarship under the program:

(1) If the institution is state-assisted, an amount equal to 100% of the institution's tuition charges;⁴

(2) If the institution is a nonprofit private institution or a private for-profit degree-granting institution that is exempt from regulation by the State Board of Proprietary School Registration, an amount equal to 100% of the average tuition charges of all state universities;⁵

² R.C. 5919.34(B).

³ R.C. 5919.34(C).

⁴ *State-assisted institutions of higher education include the 13 state universities, branch university campuses, community colleges, technical colleges, and state community colleges.*

⁵ *The term "state university" refers to any of the 13 state universities listed in R. C. 3345.011, which are: University of Akron, Bowling Green State University, Central State*

(3) If the institution is a private for-profit career school regulated by the State Board of Proprietary School Registration, the lesser of the following:

(a) An amount equal to 100% of the total instructional and general charges of the institution; or

(b) An amount equal to 100% of the average tuition charges of all state universities.

The bill

(R.C. 5919.34(D), (E)(3), and (F))

Under the bill, an individual who is enlisted in the Ohio National Guard and who is called into active duty during that enlistment may receive scholarships under the program for any academic terms that the individual missed or could have missed as a result of the active duty. The bill permits an individual to receive scholarships under the program after the individual's enlistment in the National Guard expires in order to make up for the time in which the individual could not attend courses due to an active duty assignment. Active duty includes a call into full-time federal service by the President of the United States, by an act of Congress, or by the Governor, and also includes a call into full-time state service by the Governor. The bill prohibits awarding a scholarship to an individual for the academic term in which the individual's enlistment ends, unless the individual is eligible for a scholarship in that academic term due to credit for previous active duty.⁶

The bill also specifically accounts for individuals who are currently enrolled in courses for which scholarships under the program are awarded when

University, University of Cincinnati, Cleveland State University, Kent State University, Miami University, Ohio University, Ohio State University, Shawnee State University, University of Toledo, Wright State University, and Youngstown State University.

⁶ *This provision is in keeping with the current law provision that requires an eligible applicant's term of enlistment in the National Guard to extend beyond the academic term for which a scholarship is awarded. However, it also recognizes that an individual may be eligible for a scholarship in that academic term due to credit for prior active duty even though without that credit the individual would not be eligible for a scholarship under the program. The bill does not provide a benefit for an individual who is called into active duty and who although still a member of Ohio National Guard has not been awarded a scholarship because the individual's enlistment did not extend beyond the current academic term and the individual was not eligible for a scholarship because of credit for prior active duty.*

they are called into active duty. First, it requires the institution of higher education in which such individual is enrolled to grant the individual a "leave of absence" from the individual's education program, and it prohibits an institution from imposing any academic penalty for the individual's withdrawal from or failure to complete courses due to active duty. Second, it provides instruction on how to account for the missed coursework and eligibility units that were accumulated for those unfinished courses.⁷ Under the bill, either:

(1) The Adjutant General must *not* add to that person's accumulated eligibility units the number of units for which the scholarship was paid, and the institution of higher education must repay the scholarship amount to the state; or

(2) The Adjutant General must add to that person's accumulated eligibility units the units for which the scholarship was paid *if* the institution of higher education agrees to permit the individual to complete the remainder of the academic courses in which the individual was enrolled at the time the individual was called into active duty.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	05-14-02	p. 1756

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⁷ *Under continuing law, no scholarship is to be paid for an individual if the individual withdraws from or fails to complete courses for which a scholarship is awarded under the program so that the individual is enrolled for less than 6 credit hours for any reason other than active duty. If a scholarship has already be paid for such an individual the Adjutant General is required to add to that individual's accumulated eligibility units the number of eligibility units for which the scholarship was paid. (R.C. 5919.34(E)(3).)*